

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 1, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-14, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Ebata, et al.* ("Ebata," U.S. Pat. No. 6,708,209).

As indicated above, independent claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended through this Response. In view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot as having been drawn against Applicant's claims in a previous form. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Turning to the merits of the claims, Applicant notes that Ebata does not teach providing a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator of the service provider, "wherein the GUI can be used by the service provider operator to construct a virtual local area network (VLAN) between a client computer on the remote client network and a service provider computer on service provider, the GUI being configured such that the process used by the service provider operator to construct the VLAN using the GUI is the same regardless of a configuration of the remote client network". For example, Ebata does not discuss creation of virtual local area networks between computers of different networks. Furthermore, Ebata does not discuss connectivity between computers of a service provider and those of a client on a separate network. Instead, Ebata describes communications between networks that are operated by the same

entity, in which case VLANs are not necessary and the configurations of the networks are known.

In addition, Ebata does not teach “automatically determining the configuration of the client network” or “automatically establishing a VLAN between the client computer and the service provider computer so as to enable the client to remotely utilize the computing capabilities of the service provider computer”.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Rejection of Claims 4, 10, and 15

Claims 4, 10, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ebata* in view of *Iijima, et al.* (“Iijima,” U.S. Pat. No. 6,223,218). Applicant respectfully traverses.

As identified above, Ebata does not teach aspects of Applicant’s claims. In that Iijima does not remedy the deficiencies of the Ebata reference, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 10, and 15 are allowable over the Ebata/Iijima combination for at least the same reasons that claim is allowable over Ebata.

B. Rejection of Claims 5 and 17-19

Claims 5 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ebata* in view of *Iijima* as applied to claim 4, and further in view of *McNally, et al.* (“McNally,” U.S. Pat. No. 6,259,448). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, Ebata and Iijima do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that McNally does not remedy the deficiencies of the Ebata and Iijima references, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is allowable over the Ebata/Iijima/McNally combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 17 are allowable over Ebata/Iijima.

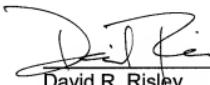
Regarding claim 17, independent claim 17 has been amended through this Response. In view of that amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections to claims 17-19 are moot as having been drawn against Applicant's claims in a previous form. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Turning to the merits of claim 17, the applied references do not teach or suggest a graphical user interface comprising "a first window that is used to create new client virtual local area networks (VLANs) and that identifies client VLANs that have already been created" and "a second window that identifies service provider computers on the local service provider network that are available for use by clients on remote client networks". Specifically, the references do not discuss a windows-based GUI through which VLANs are established between disparate networks.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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